

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for critical health care initiatives in North Central Massachusetts.

Olver secured the funding the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Fund.

"Expanding access to affordable health care is one of my top priorities," Olver said. "There is a great need for health care in the Northern Tier region of Massachusetts."

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and Independent Agencies.

These projects will have a positive impact on the state of health care in the Northern Tier region of Massachusetts.

The Northern Tier region is in northwest Massachusetts, running from the New York border east to Gardner.

**\$325,000 for the Gardner Community Health Center** The Gardner Community Health Center is a comprehensive health care facility serving the Gardner area.

"An estimated 12 percent of Gardner area residents have no health insurance," Olver said. "When you have no health insurance, you are at a disadvantage when it comes to health care."

Olver is a member of the Congressional Community Health Center Caucus, which works to increase funding for community health centers.

"Community health centers are one of the most efficient ways to provide quality health care to the poor and underserved," Olver said.

The health center moved its operation this spring to the Mary Kane School Building, a former elementary school.

Originally built in 1900, the Mary Kane building has four stories and 15,000 square feet. The renovation project was completed in the fall of 2006.

The presence of the facility in the community will provide employment and health care education and training.

**For additional information on this project, contact:**

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John DeMalia, Gardner Community Health Center, at 978-410-6110 or [jdemalia@chcfhc.org](mailto:jdemalia@chcfhc.org).

**\$275,000 for Mount Wachusett Community College's dental hygiene program** Mount Wachusett Community College's dental hygiene program is a two-year program that prepares students for careers in dental hygiene.

"The benefits of this program are two-fold," Olver said. "The services benefit the under-served, primarily in the Northern Tier region of Massachusetts."

For many years, the dental community of North Central Massachusetts has requested that MWCC expand its dental hygiene program.

**For additional information on this project, contact:**

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